

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH  
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

**Pr APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE**

Dimethyl Fumarate Delayed-Release Capsules  
Delayed-Release Capsules, 120 mg and 240 mg, Oral  
Antineoplastic and Immunomodulating Agents

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## PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE (dimethyl fumarate) is indicated as monotherapy for:

- treatment of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (MS), to reduce the frequency of clinical exacerbations and to delay the progression of disability.

The efficacy of dimethyl fumarate in patients with primary progressive multiple sclerosis has not been established.

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should only be prescribed by clinicians who are experienced in the diagnosis and management of multiple sclerosis.

#### 1.1 Pediatrics

**Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):** Based on the data submitted and reviewed by Health Canada, the safety and efficacy of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE in pediatric patients has not been established; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use (see [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Pediatrics](#)).

#### 1.2 Geriatrics

**Geriatrics (> 65 years of age):** Clinical studies of dimethyl fumarate did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 and over to determine whether the safety and efficacy of dimethyl fumarate may differ in elderly patients compared to younger patients. Physicians who choose to treat geriatric patients should consider that treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE in the context of a greater frequency of other concomitant diseases and concomitant drug therapy warrants caution and may necessitate additional or more frequent monitoring (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Geriatrics](#)).

### 2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

- APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation, including any non-medicinal ingredients, or component of the container. For a complete listing, see [6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING](#).

### 4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### 4.1 Dosing Considerations

**Dosing in special populations:**

- *Renal or hepatic impairment:* Dimethyl fumarate has not been studied in patients with renal or hepatic impairment. Based on the pharmacokinetics and metabolic fate of dimethyl fumarate in healthy adults, neither condition would be expected to affect

exposure to MMF and therefore no dosage adjustment is necessary. However, caution should be exercised when treating patients with these conditions (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations](#); [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics](#)).

- *Pediatric patients:* APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is not indicated for use in pediatric patients (see [1 INDICATIONS](#) and [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY](#)).
- *Geriatric patients:* Clinical studies of dimethyl fumarate had limited exposure to patients aged 55 years and above, and did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 and over to determine whether the safety and efficacy of dimethyl fumarate differs in elderly patients compared to younger patients. Based on the mechanism of action there are no theoretical reasons for any requirement for dose adjustments in the elderly. Physicians who choose to treat geriatric patients should consider that treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE in the context of a greater frequency of other concomitant diseases and concomitant drug therapy warrants caution and may necessitate additional or more frequent monitoring (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Geriatrics](#)).

#### 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

- **Initial dose:** The starting dose for APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is 120 mg twice a day orally, for a total of 240 mg per day.
- **Usual dose:** After 7 days, increase to the recommended dose of 240 mg twice a day orally, for a total of 480 mg per day.

Temporary dose reduction to 120 mg twice a day (total of 240 mg per day) may reduce the occurrence of flushing and gastrointestinal (GI) side effects. Within one month, the recommended dose of 240 mg twice a day orally should be resumed.

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE can be taken with or without food. For those patients who may experience gastrointestinal side effects, taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE with food may improve tolerability.

Administration of 325 mg non-enteric coated acetylsalicylic acid prior to APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE dosing reduced the occurrence and severity of flushing in a 4-day healthy volunteer study. Longer term use of acetylsalicylic acid to manage flushing has not been studied and is not recommended (see [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY](#)).

Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

#### 4.4 Administration

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is taken orally, with or without food.

Capsules should be taken by swallowing whole. The capsule and its contents should not be crushed, divided, or dissolved, as the enteric-coating of the mini tablets in the capsule helps to prevent irritant effects on the stomach.

#### 4.5 Missed Dose

If a dose is missed, the missed dose can be taken if there is at least 4 hours between the morning and evening doses. Otherwise, treatment should be continued with the next dose as planned.

### 5 OVERDOSAGE

Cases of overdose with dimethyl fumarate have been reported. The symptoms described in these cases were consistent with the known adverse event profile of dimethyl fumarate. There are no known therapeutic interventions to enhance elimination of dimethyl fumarate nor is there a known antidote. In the event of overdose, it is recommended that symptomatic supportive treatment be initiated as clinically indicated. Safety of cumulative doses higher than 720 mg daily has not been adequately evaluated (see [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics](#)).

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre.

### 6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Table – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength / Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Oral	Delayed-release capsules / 120 mg and 240 mg	Enteric-coated mini tablets:  Colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, methacrylic acid and ethyl acrylate copolymer dispersion, methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate copolymer, microcrystalline cellulose, talc and triethyl citrate.  The capsule shell contains black iron oxide, FD&C Blue 1, gelatin, titanium dioxide and yellow iron oxide. The black ink contains ammonia solution, iron oxide black, potassium hydroxide, propylene glycol and shellac.

#### Description

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is available as enteric-coated mini tablets in a hard gelatin capsule containing 120 mg or 240 mg of dimethyl fumarate.

### **120 mg**

**Capsules:** White to off white colored enteric coated mini tablets filled in size “0” empty hard gelatin capsule shell with Green Opaque cap imprinted “M” along with band in black ink and White Opaque body imprinted with “120 mg” in black ink.

**Packaging:** 14 Capsule Cartons: one blister card containing 14 capsules  
56 Capsule Cartons: four blister cards with 14 capsules per card

### **240 mg**

**Capsules:** White to off white colored enteric coated mini tablets filled in size “0” empty hard gelatin capsule shell with Green Opaque cap imprinted “M” along with band in black ink and Green Opaque body imprinted “240 mg” in black ink.

**Packaging:** 56 Capsule Cartons: four blister cards with 14 capsules per cards.

## **7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

### **General**

During treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, simultaneous use of other fumaric acid derivatives (topical or systemic) is not recommended.

### **Gastrointestinal**

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may cause gastrointestinal adverse events. In placebo controlled clinical trials in patients with multiple sclerosis, 48% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to 36% of patients that received placebo, experienced gastrointestinal adverse events. The increased frequency of gastrointestinal adverse events with dimethyl fumarate was mainly due to higher frequencies of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, upper abdominal pain, and dyspepsia. Gastroenteritis was also reported more frequently in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate than in patients who received placebo (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions](#)).

Administration of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE with food or a temporary dose reduction to 240 mg/day may improve tolerability in patients who experience gastrointestinal adverse events (see [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment](#)).

Dimethyl fumarate has not been evaluated in patients with severe active gastrointestinal disease and caution should be exercised when treating these patients.

### **Hematologic**

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may decrease lymphocyte counts (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)). In the MS placebo-controlled trials, mean lymphocyte counts decreased by approximately 30% during the first year of treatment with dimethyl fumarate then remained stable at this reduced level for the duration of treatment. Six percent (6%) of dimethyl fumarate patients and < 1% of placebo patients experienced lymphocyte counts < 0.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L (lower limit of normal 0.91 x

$10^9/L$ ). In controlled and uncontrolled clinical trials, 9% of patients had lymphocyte counts  $\geq 0.5 \times 10^9/L$  and  $< 0.8 \times 10^9/L$  for at least six months. 2% of patients experienced lymphocyte counts  $< 0.5 \times 10^9/L$  for at least 6 months and in this group, the majority of lymphocyte counts remained  $< 0.5 \times 10^9/L$  with continued therapy. Four weeks after stopping dimethyl fumarate, mean lymphocyte counts increased but did not return to baseline.

For estimated median lymphocyte recovery times in a 24 week period after stopping APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, see [10.2 Pharmacodynamics](#).

The following precautions should be taken:

- Prior to initiating treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, obtain a complete blood count (CBC), including lymphocytes, if no recent (within 6 months) result is available. A CBC, including lymphocytes, is also recommended after 6 months of treatment, then every 6 to 12 months, and as clinically indicated.
- Consider interruption of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE in patients with lymphocyte counts  $< 0.5 \times 10^9/L$  persisting for more than 6 months.
- Assess the benefit-risk in patients who experience moderate lymphopenia for more than 6 months.
- In patients with lymphocyte counts below lower limit of normal (LLN) as defined by local laboratory reference range, regular monitoring of absolute lymphocyte counts is recommended. Additional factors that might further augment the individual PML risk should be considered (see also [Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy](#) below).
- In all cases of lymphopenia, lymphocyte counts should be followed until recovery. Where APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE treatment has been stopped, decisions about whether or not to restart APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should be individualized based on clinical circumstances.
- A CBC is also recommended prior to switching patients to other therapies that are known to reduce lymphocyte counts to avoid additive immune effects (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).
- Patients with pre-existing low lymphocyte counts, and patients concomitantly taking other immunomodulating treatments, were excluded from the multiple sclerosis clinical trials. Treatment is not recommended in patients who are immunocompromised due to other treatments (e.g., anti-neoplastic, immunosuppressive or immune modulating therapies) or disease (e.g., immunodeficiency syndrome), due to the potential risk of additive immune system effects.

### Hepatic/Biliary

During clinical trials in patients with multiple sclerosis, elevations in liver transaminases (ALT and AST)  $> 1 \times$  the upper limit of normal (ULN) and less than  $3 \times$  ULN occurred more frequently in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate than in patients that received placebo. The increased incidence of elevations of hepatic transaminases in patients treated with dimethyl



fumarate relative to placebo was primarily seen during the first 6 months of treatment (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions, Hepatic Transaminases](#)).

Prior to initiating treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, serum aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase and total bilirubin levels should be obtained (within 6 months). During treatment, evaluation of transaminases is recommended after 6 months of treatment, then every 6 to 12 months, and as clinically indicated.

Discontinue APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE if clinically significant liver injury induced by APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is suspected.

Clinically significant cases of liver injury have been reported in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate in the postmarketing setting. The onset has ranged from a few days to several months after initiation of treatment with dimethyl fumarate. Signs and symptoms of liver injury, including elevation of serum aminotransferases to greater than 5-fold the upper limit of normal and elevation of total bilirubin to greater than 2-fold the upper limit of normal have been observed. These abnormalities resolved upon treatment discontinuation. Some cases required hospitalization. None of the reported cases resulted in liver failure, liver transplant, or death. However, the combination of new serum aminotransferase elevations with increased levels of bilirubin caused by drug-induced hepatocellular injury is an important predictor of serious liver injury that may lead to acute liver failure, liver transplant, or death in some patients.

### **Immune**

*Infections:* Treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should not be initiated in patients with signs and symptoms of a serious infection.

Decreases in lymphocyte counts observed in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate in clinical trials were not associated with increased frequencies of infections. However, due to the potential risk of infections in patients who develop sustained lymphopenia, patients should be instructed to report symptoms of infection to their physician. For patients with signs and symptoms of serious infections, interrupting treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should be considered, until the infection(s) resolves.

*Herpes Zoster and Other Serious Opportunistic Infections:* Cases of herpes zoster have occurred with dimethyl fumarate. The majority of cases were non-serious, however, serious cases, including disseminated herpes zoster, herpes zoster ophthalmicus, herpes zoster meningoencephalitis and herpes zoster meningomyelitis have been reported. These events may occur at any time during treatment. Monitor patients taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE for signs and symptoms of herpes zoster. If herpes zoster occurs, appropriate treatment for herpes zoster should be administered.

Other serious opportunistic infections have occurred with dimethyl fumarate, including cases of serious viral (herpes simplex virus, West Nile virus, cytomegalovirus), fungal (Candida and Aspergillus), and bacterial (Nocardia, Listeria monocytogenes, Mycobacterium tuberculosis) infections. These infections have been reported in patients with reduced absolute lymphocyte counts (ALC) as well as in patients with normal ALC. These infections have affected the brain, meninges, spinal cord, gastrointestinal tract, lungs, skin, eye, and ear. Patients with symptoms

and signs consistent with any of these infections should undergo prompt diagnostic evaluation and receive appropriate treatment.

Consider withholding APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE treatment in patients with serious infections until the infection has resolved (See [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Market Adverse Reactions](#)).

*Vaccination:* The safety of administration of live attenuated vaccines during treatment with dimethyl fumarate has not been evaluated in clinical trials. Live vaccines have a potential risk of clinical infection and are not recommended during treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE.

The efficacy of live attenuated vaccines administered during treatment with dimethyl fumarate has not been evaluated in clinical trials.

*Hypersensitivity and Anaphylactic Reactions:* In clinical trials, 3 patients out of a total of 2,560 patients treated with dimethyl fumarate experienced serious flushing symptoms that were probable hypersensitivity or anaphylactoid reactions. These events were not life-threatening, but led to hospitalization. Cases of hypersensitivity, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction have been reported during the post marketing period (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Market Adverse Reactions](#)). These reactions generally occurred after the first dose, but may occur at any time during treatment, and may be serious and life threatening. Prescribers and patients should be alert to this possibility in the event of severe flushing reaction. Patients should be instructed to discontinue APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE and seek immediate medical care should they experience signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis or angioedema. Treatment should not be restarted.

### **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**

Prior to initiating treatment, a recent complete blood count (CBC), including lymphocytes, (i.e. within 6 months) is recommended to identify patients with pre-existing low lymphocyte counts, as dimethyl fumarate may decrease lymphocyte counts (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)). A CBC, including lymphocytes, is recommended after 6 months, then every 6 to 12 months, and as clinically indicated (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).

Urinalysis should be performed before initiating treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, after 6 months of treatment, then every 6 to 12 months, and as clinically indicated (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Renal](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).

Liver transaminases should be checked (within 6 months) before initiating treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, evaluation of transaminases is recommended after 6 months of treatment, then every 6 to 12 months and as clinically indicated (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hepatic/Biliary](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).

## **Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy**

Cases of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) have occurred in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate, in the presence of lymphopenia ( $<0.91 \times 10^9/L$ ), including in patients who had not previously taken or were not concomitantly taking either immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory medications (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Experience](#)). These PML cases have occurred predominantly in the setting of prolonged moderate to severe lymphopenia. PML is an opportunistic viral infection of the brain caused by the JC virus (JCV) that typically only occurs in patients who are immunocompromised, and may lead to death or severe disability.

Physicians should be vigilant for clinical symptoms or MRI findings that may be suggestive of PML. If PML is suspected, APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE treatment should be suspended until PML has been excluded. Typical symptoms associated with PML are diverse, progress over days to weeks, and include progressive weakness on one side of the body or clumsiness of limbs, disturbance of vision, and changes in thinking, memory, and orientation leading to confusion and personality changes.

There is no known intervention that can reliably prevent PML or adequately treat PML if it occurs. Lymphocyte counts should be monitored in patients taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE and as a precaution, interruption of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should be considered in patients with lymphocyte counts  $< 0.5 \times 10^9/L$  persisting for more than 6 months (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic](#)).

## **Renal**

In clinical trials with patients with multiple sclerosis, adverse events of proteinuria (proteinuria, microalbuminuria and urine albumin present) were reported at slightly higher frequencies in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to patients that received placebo. The significance of these clinical observations is not known at this time.

Prior to initiating treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, urinalysis should be available (within 6 months). During treatment, urinalysis is recommended after 6 months of treatment, then every 6 to 12 months, and as clinically indicated.

The use of dimethyl fumarate in patients who receive chronic treatment with medications that are associated with potential nephrotoxic risk (e.g., aminoglycosides, diuretics, NSAIDs, lithium) has not been evaluated. Therefore, caution should be exercised if APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is used in patients receiving chronic treatment with such medications.

## **Vascular Disorders**

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may cause flushing (e.g. flushing, hot flush, warmth, redness, itching, and/or burning sensation). In placebo controlled clinical trials in patients with multiple sclerosis, 34% of dimethyl fumarate treated patients, compared to 5% of patients that received placebo, experienced flushing. Flushing symptoms generally began soon after initiating dimethyl fumarate and usually improved or resolved over time (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions](#)). In the majority of patients who experienced flushing, it was mild or moderate in severity. For patients experiencing severe flushing reactions the possibility

of hypersensitivity or anaphylactoid reactions should be considered (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Immune](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Market Adverse Reactions](#)).

Administration of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE with food, administration of 325 mg non-enteric coated acetylsalicylic acid prior to dosing, or a temporary dose reduction to 240 mg/day may reduce the incidence of flushing (see [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment](#)). The long-term use of acetylsalicylic acid is not recommended for the management of flushing (see [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#)).

## 7.1 Special Populations

**Hepatic Impairment:** The safety of dimethyl fumarate has not been evaluated in patients with hepatic impairment and it is not known if these patients are at an increased risk of developing elevated liver transaminases, or other adverse events during treatment with dimethyl fumarate. Caution should be exercised when treating these patients (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hepatic/Biliary; Monitoring and Laboratory Tests](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#); [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Dosing Considerations](#)).

**Renal Impairment:** The safety of dimethyl fumarate has not been evaluated in patients with renal impairment and it is not known if these patients are at an increased risk of developing renal adverse events, or other adverse events during treatment with dimethyl fumarate. Caution should be exercised when treating these patients (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Renal; Monitoring and Laboratory Tests](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#); [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Dosing Considerations](#)).

### 7.1.1 Pregnant Women

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of dimethyl fumarate in pregnant women. The use of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE during pregnancy should only be considered if the potential benefit to the mother justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Monomethyl fumarate was detected in rat and rabbit fetal plasma after oral dimethyl fumarate administration to the mothers. Administration of dimethyl fumarate to rats and rabbits at doses up to 11 and 16 times the recommended human dose (RHD) (AUC basis), respectively, have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. There were no fertility effects in male and female rats at exposures of 9 and 6 times the RHD, respectively (based on mg/m<sup>2</sup>). Embryo-fetal toxicity that may have been secondary to maternal toxicity was observed when dimethyl fumarate was given during the period of organogenesis. Adverse effects were observed in offspring when dimethyl fumarate was administered during the pre- and post-natal periods, with the no effect dose at 4 times the RHD on an AUC basis (see [16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY](#)).

### 7.1.2 Breast-feeding

It is not known whether dimethyl fumarate or its metabolites are excreted in human milk.

Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is administered to a nursing woman.

### 7.1.3 Pediatrics

**Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):** Based on the data submitted and reviewed by Health Canada, the safety and efficacy of dimethyl fumarate in pediatric patients has not been established; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use (see [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Pediatrics](#)).

### 7.1.4 Geriatrics

**Geriatrics (> 65 years of age):** Clinical studies of dimethyl fumarate did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 and over to determine whether the safety and efficacy of dimethyl fumarate may differ in elderly patients compared to younger patients. Physicians who choose to treat geriatric patients should consider that treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE in the context of a greater frequency of other concomitant diseases and concomitant drug therapy warrants caution and may necessitate additional or more frequent monitoring (see [10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Geriatrics](#)).

## 8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

### 8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview

In placebo-controlled and uncontrolled clinical studies, a total of 2,513 patients have received dimethyl fumarate; of these, 1169 have received at least 5 years of treatment with dimethyl fumarate, and 426 have received at least 10 years. The experience in uncontrolled clinical trials is consistent with the experience in the placebo-controlled clinical trials.

In the two Phase 3 placebo-controlled trials, 1529 patients received dimethyl fumarate with an overall exposure of 2371 person years. The adverse reactions presented below are based on safety information from 769 patients treated with dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice a day and 771 patients treated with placebo.

The most common adverse reactions (incidence > 10%) for patients treated with dimethyl fumarate were flushing and gastrointestinal (GI) events (i.e., diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain and abdominal pain upper). In the majority of subjects, the adverse reactions were non-serious in nature. The most commonly reported adverse events leading to discontinuation of treatment (incidence > 1%) in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate were flushing (3%) and gastrointestinal events (4%).

### 8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. The adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials; therefore, may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful in identifying and approximating rates of adverse drug reactions in

real-world use.

Table 1 lists treatment emergent adverse events that occurred during active treatment in  $\geq 1\%$  of dimethyl fumarate-treated patients and at  $\geq 1\%$  higher incidence than placebo in the two Phase 3 placebo-controlled trials.

**Table 1 – Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events with an Incidence of  $\geq 1\%$  of Dimethyl Fumarate Treated Patients and at  $\geq 1\%$  Higher Rate than for Placebo**

Adverse Event	Placebo N=771 (%)	Dimethyl Fumarate 240 mg BID N=769 (%)
<b>Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders</b>		
Lymphopenia	2 (0.3%)	18 (2.3%)
Lymphocyte Count Decreased	1 (0.1%)	9 (1.2%)
<b>Endocrine Disorders</b>		
Microalbuminuria	24 (3.1%)	35 (4.6%)
<b>Gastrointestinal Disorders</b>		
Diarrhea	83 (10.8%)	107 (13.9%)
Nausea	67 (8.7%)	93 (12.1%)
Abdominal Pain Upper	45 (5.8%)	76 (9.9%)
Abdominal Pain	37 (4.8%)	73 (9.5%)
Vomiting	37 (4.8%)	65 (8.5%)
Dyspepsia	20 (2.6%)	35 (4.6%)
Gastritis	11 (1.4%)	22 (2.9%)
Abdominal Discomfort	11 (1.4%)	19 (2.5%)
Gastrointestinal Disorder	8 (1.0%)	18 (2.3%)
Dry Mouth	6 (0.8%)	16 (2.1%)
<b>General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions</b>		
Feeling Hot	2 (0.3%)	15 (2.0%)
<b>Immune system Disorders</b>		
Dermatitis Allergic	5 (0.6%)	13 (1.7%)
Hypersensitivity	2 (0.3%)	11 (1.4%)
<b>Infections and Infestations</b>		
Nasopharyngitis	159 (20.6%)	170 (22.1%)
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	87 (11.3%)	99 (12.9%)
Gastroenteritis	28 (3.6%)	42 (5.5%)
Otitis Media	1 (0.1%)	10 (1.3%)
<b>Investigations</b>		
Albumin Urine Present	27 (3.5%)	46 (6.0%)
Alanine Aminotransferase Increased	38 (4.9%)	45 (5.9%)

Adverse Event	Placebo N=771 (%)	Dimethyl Fumarate 240 mg BID N=769 (%)
Aspartate Aminotransferase Increased	18 (2.3%)	33 (4.3%)
Blood Urine Present	7 (0.9%)	16 (2.1%)
Blood Parathyroid Hormone Increased	6 (0.8%)	15 (2.0%)
White Blood Cell Count Decreased	1 (0.1%)	13 (1.7%)
Weight Decreased	3 (0.4%)	11 (1.4%)
<b>Nervous System Disorders</b>		
Burning Sensation	13 (1.7%)	21 (2.7%)
<b>Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders</b>	8 (1.0%)	15 (2.0%)
Rhinorrhoea		
<b>Renal and Urinary Disorders</b>		
Urinary Tract Infection	95 (12.3%)	107 (13.9%)
Proteinuria	59 (7.7%)	67 (8.7%)
<b>Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders</b>		
Pruritus	30 (3.9%)	62 (8.1%)
Rash	26 (3.4%)	58 (7.5%)
Erythema	10 (1.3%)	36 (4.7%)
Dysaesthesia	5 (0.6%)	12 (1.6%)
<b>Vascular Disorders</b>		
Flushing	33 (4.3%)	265 (34.5%)
Hot Flush	16 (2.1%)	52 (6.8%)

**Flushing:** In the placebo-controlled trials, 34% of dimethyl fumarate treated patients, compared to 5% of patients that received placebo, experienced flushing adverse events. The incidence of flushing adverse events (e.g., flushing, hot flush, warmth, redness, itching, burning sensation) was higher early in the course of treatment (primarily in month 1) and decreased over time. The majority of flushing adverse events were mild-to-moderate in severity. Overall, 3% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to < 1% on placebo discontinued treatment due to flushing. The incidence of serious flushing which may be characterized by generalized erythema, rash and/or pruritus was seen in less than 1% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Vascular Disorders](#) and [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION](#)).

**Gastrointestinal:** In placebo controlled clinical trials, 48% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to 36% of patients that received placebo, experienced gastrointestinal adverse events. The incidence of GI related adverse events (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, upper abdominal pain & dyspepsia) was higher early in the course of treatment (primarily in month 1) and usually decreased over time in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared with placebo. Four percent (4%) of patients treated with dimethyl



fumarate and less than 1% of placebo treated patients discontinued due to gastrointestinal adverse events. The incidence of individual serious GI events, including gastroenteritis and gastritis, was less than 1% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Gastrointestinal Disorders](#) and [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION](#))

**Infections:** The incidence of infections (60% vs. 56%) and serious infections (2% vs. 1%) was similar in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate or placebo, respectively (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic, Infections](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).

**Hepatic Transaminases:** In placebo-controlled trials, elevations of hepatic transaminases were observed. The majority of patients with elevations had hepatic transaminases that were less than 3 times the upper limit of normal (ULN). Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) > 1 x ULN and < 3 x ULN occurred in 42% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to 31% of patients on placebo. Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) > 1 x ULN and < 3 x ULN occurred in 24% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to 19% of patients on placebo. The increased incidence of elevations of hepatic transaminases in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate relative to placebo was primarily seen during the first 6 months of treatment. Discontinuation of treatment due to elevated hepatic transaminases were < 1% and similar in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate or placebo. Elevations in transaminases  $\geq 3$  times ULN with concomitant elevations in total bilirubin > 2 times ULN were not observed during placebo-controlled studies (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hepatic/Biliary, Monitoring and Laboratory Tests](#); [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).

**Renal:** Adverse events of proteinuria (proteinuria, microalbuminuria and urine albumin present) were reported at slightly higher frequencies in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to patients that received placebo (Table 1). The overall incidence of renal and urinary adverse events, including serious adverse events and adverse events leading to discontinuation, was similar for dimethyl fumarate and placebo-treated patients. There were no reports of serious renal failure. On urinalysis, the percentage of patients with protein values of 1+ or greater was similar for dimethyl fumarate (43%) and placebo-treated patients (40%). Typically, laboratory observations of proteinuria were not progressive. Positive urine ketones occurred more frequently in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate than in patients who received placebo, but were not associated with increases in other renal/urinary adverse events (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data](#)).

### 8.3 Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

The following is a list of treatment-emergent adverse events reported by patients treated with dimethyl fumarate at any dose in MS placebo-controlled trials (n=1720) at an incidence of < 1% but at an incidence of  $\geq 0.3\%$  higher than placebo (n=836). Events that have already been included in Table 1 have been excluded. Although the events reported occurred during treatment with dimethyl fumarate, they were not necessarily caused by dimethyl fumarate.



Events are listed by system organ class in decreasing order of incidence in dimethyl fumarate-treated patients.

*Blood and lymphatic system:* eosinophilia

*Cardiac disorders:* supraventricular extrasystoles, atrioventricular block first degree, angina pectoris

*Gastrointestinal disorders:* periodontitis, dental caries, food poisoning, defaecation urgency, eructation

*General disorders:* non-cardiac chest pain, malaise

*Hepatobiliary disorders:* liver disorder

*Immune system disorders:* food allergy

*Infections and infestations:* conjunctivitis infective, cellulitis, tracheitis

*Injury, poisoning and procedural complications:* foot fracture, ankle fracture

*Investigations:* beta 2 microglobulin increased, neutrophil count decreased, blood potassium increased

*Metabolism and nutrition disorders:* hypercholesterolaemia

*Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:* arthritis, joint stiffness

*Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified:* skin papilloma, lipoma, breast cancer (events occurred during open-label extension studies)

*Nervous system disorders:* dysgeusia, dysarthria, migraine with aura, cognitive disorder

*Psychiatric disorders:* mood altered

*Renal and urinary disorders:* urge incontinence

*Reproductive system and breast disorders:* breast pain

*Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:* sinus congestion, asthma

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:* rash pruritic, skin burning sensation, rash macular, generalised erythema, rash generalised, photosensitivity reaction, rash erythematous

*Vascular disorders:* hyperaemia, varicose vein

## **8.4 Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data**

### **Clinical Trial Findings**

Abnormal hematological and clinical chemistry findings reported in the placebo controlled multiple sclerosis clinical trials included the following:

## Hematologic

- See also [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic](#). The majority of patients (> 98%) had normal lymphocyte values prior to initiating treatment. Upon treatment with dimethyl fumarate, lymphocyte counts decreased over the first year with a subsequent plateau. On average, lymphocyte counts decreased by approximately 30% from baseline value, but mean and median lymphocyte counts remained within normal limits. Patients with lymphocyte counts < 0.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L were observed in < 1% of patients treated with placebo and 6% of patients treated with dimethyl fumarate. In controlled and uncontrolled clinical studies, 9% of patients had lymphocyte counts ≥0.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L and <0.8 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L for at least six months. 2% of patients experienced lymphocyte counts <0.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L for at least 6 months and in this group, the majority of lymphocyte counts remained <0.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L with continued therapy. For estimated median lymphocyte recovery times in a 24 week period after stopping APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, see [10.2 Pharmacodynamics](#).
- A transient increase in mean eosinophil counts was seen during the first 2 months of dimethyl fumarate therapy (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic](#)).

## Clinical Chemistry

- In the placebo-controlled studies, measurement of urinary ketones (1+ or greater) was higher in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate (45%) compared to placebo (10%). No untoward clinical consequences were observed in clinical trials (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions, Renal](#)).
- Levels of 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D decreased in dimethyl fumarate treated patients relative to placebo (median percentage decrease from baseline at 2 years of 25% versus 15%, respectively) and levels of parathyroid hormone (PTH) increased in dimethyl fumarate treated patients relative to placebo (median percentage increase from baseline at 2 years of 29% versus 15%, respectively). Mean values for both parameters remained within normal range. No untoward clinical consequences were observed in clinical trials.

## 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

During post marketing experience, hypersensitivity reactions have been reported, including rare reports of anaphylaxis and angioedema in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate. Signs and symptoms have included difficulty breathing, urticaria, and swelling of the throat and tongue.

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy has occurred in the setting of lymphopenia (<0.91 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L) following dimethyl fumarate administration. These PML cases have occurred predominantly in the setting of prolonged moderate to severe lymphopenia.

Liver function abnormalities (elevations in transaminases ≥ 3 times ULN with concomitant elevations in total bilirubin > 2 times ULN) have been reported following dimethyl fumarate administration in post marketing experience. These abnormalities resolved upon treatment discontinuation.

Herpes zoster infection has been reported with dimethyl fumarate administration in post marketing experience. The majority of cases were non-serious.

Rhinorrhea and alopecia have been reported with dimethyl fumarate administration in post marketing experience.

## 9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

### 9.2 Drug Interactions Overview

In humans, dimethyl fumarate is extensively metabolized by esterases before it reaches the systemic circulation and further metabolism occurs through tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, with no involvement of the cytochrome P450 (CYP) system. Potential drug interaction risks were not identified from *in vitro* CYP-inhibition and induction studies, a p-glycoprotein study, or studies of the protein binding of dimethyl fumarate and monomethyl fumarate (MMF, a major metabolite of dimethyl fumarate).

### 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

The drugs listed in Table 2 are based on either drug interaction case reports (C) or studies (CT), or potential interactions (T) due to the expected magnitude and seriousness of the interaction (i.e., those identified as contraindicated).

**Table 2 - Established or Potential Drug-Drug Interactions**

Proper/Common name	Source of Evidence*	Effect	Clinical comment
Other fumaric acid derivatives (Topical or systemic)	T	-	During treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, simultaneous use of other fumaric acid derivatives (topical or systemic) is not recommended.
Interferon beta-1a (Intramuscular)	CT	Single doses of drugs used in patients with multiple sclerosis, intramuscular interferon beta-1a and glatiramer acetate (GA), were clinically tested for potential drug- interactions with dimethyl fumarate and did not alter the pharmacokinetic profile of dimethyl fumarate.	APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is not indicated for concomitant use with these drugs.

Proper/Common name	Source of Evidence*	Effect	Clinical comment
Glatiramer acetate (GA) (Intramuscular)	CT	Single doses of drugs used in patients with multiple sclerosis, intramuscular interferon beta-1a and glatiramer acetate (GA), were clinically tested for potential drug- interactions with dimethyl fumarate and did not alter the pharmacokinetic profile of dimethyl fumarate.	APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is not indicated for concomitant use with these drugs.
Non-enteric coated acetylsalicylic acid	CT	Non-enteric coated acetylsalicylic acid 325 mg, when administered approximately 30 minutes before dimethyl fumarate, over 4 days of dosing in healthy adult volunteers, did not alter the pharmacokinetic profile of dimethyl fumarate, and reduced the occurrence and severity of flushing.	Long-term use of acetylsalicylic acid is not recommended for the management of flushing.  Potential risks associated with acetylsalicylic acid therapy should be considered prior to co-administration with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE.
Monophasic combined oral contraceptive (norgestimate and ethinyl estradiol)	CT, T	In a 2-period cross-over pharmacokinetic study in healthy female subjects (n=40), co- administration of dimethyl fumarate for 21 days (240 mg BID) with a monophasic combined oral contraceptive (250 µg norgestimate and 35 µg ethinyl estradiol) did not elicit any relevant effects on oral contraceptive exposure (Day 21).  No interaction studies have been performed with oral contraceptives containing other progestogens, however an effect of dimethyl fumarate on their exposure is not expected, based on in	An effect of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE on the exposure of oral contraceptives is not expected

Proper/Common name	Source of Evidence*	Effect	Clinical comment
		vitro CYP induction studies (see <a href="#">Drug Interactions Overview</a> ).	
Anti-neoplastic, immuno-suppressive or immune modulating drugs	T	Dimethyl fumarate has not been studied in patients treated with anti-neoplastic or immunosuppressive therapies and concomitant treatment is not recommended in these patients due to the potential risk of additive immune system effects.	Concomitant treatment is not recommended. Caution should also be exercised when switching patients from long-acting therapies with immune effects to avoid additive immune system effects (see <a href="#">7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic</a> ).
Vaccines	T	The use of live attenuated vaccines may carry the risk of infection and is not recommended. No clinical data are available on the efficacy and safety of live attenuated vaccines in patients taking dimethyl fumarate.	The use of live attenuated vaccines in patients taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is not recommended.
Drugs associated with nephrotoxicity	T	The use of dimethyl fumarate in patients who receive chronic treatment with drugs that are associated with potential nephrotoxic risk (e.g., aminoglycosides, diuretics, NSAIDs, lithium) has not been evaluated.	Caution should be exercised if APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is used in these patients (see <a href="#">7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Renal</a> ; <a href="#">8 ADVERSE REACTIONS, Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data</a> ).
Corticosteroids	CT	In the multiple sclerosis clinical trials, relapses were treated with a short course of corticosteroids. Although this was not associated with an increased rate of infection in clinical trials, patients should be reminded of the potential	Patients should be reminded of the potential increased risk of infection due to additive immune system effects of corticosteroids.

Proper/Common name	Source of Evidence*	Effect	Clinical comment
		increased risk of infection due to additive immune system effects of corticosteroids.	

\* Legend: C = Case Study; CT = Clinical Trial; T = Theoretical

## 9.5 Drug-Food Interactions

Food does not have a clinically significant effect on exposure of dimethyl fumarate. APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may be taken with or without food.

## 10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 10.1 Mechanism of Action

Dimethyl fumarate (DMF) and the metabolite, monomethyl fumarate (MMF), have been shown to activate the Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2)-like 2 (Nrf2) pathway *in vitro* and *in vivo* in animals and humans. The Nrf2 pathway is involved in the cellular response to oxidative stress. Dimethyl fumarate has also demonstrated anti-inflammatory effects *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The mechanism by which dimethyl fumarate exerts therapeutic effects in multiple sclerosis is not known.

### 10.2 Pharmacodynamics

The primary pharmacodynamic response to dimethyl fumarate treatment appears to be mediated, in part, through activation of the Nrf2 pathway. Activation of the Nrf2 pathway leads to the upregulation of antioxidant response genes. Studies done *in vitro* and *in vivo* in animals suggest that the Nrf2 dependent upregulation of antioxidant response genes by DMF and/or MMF can protect various types of cells and tissues, including some from the CNS, from experimental toxic oxidative stress.

Dimethyl fumarate has demonstrated anti-inflammatory effects *in vitro*, with a reduction in pro-inflammatory cytokine and chemokine production that was stimulated by activation of the TLR-4 pathway via LPS administration. Additionally, a mechanistic role for dimethyl fumarate has been identified in inducing type II dendritic cells and biasing immune cell differentiation towards an anti-inflammatory TH2 phenotype. These anti-inflammatory responses are thought to reduce aberrant immune cell activation, which occurs in auto-immune diseases such as MS. These anti-inflammatory effects observed *in vitro* were consistent with *in vivo* studies. In the Phase 3 clinical trials mean lymphocyte counts decreased by approximately 30% from baseline values during the first year and remained stable at the reduced level.

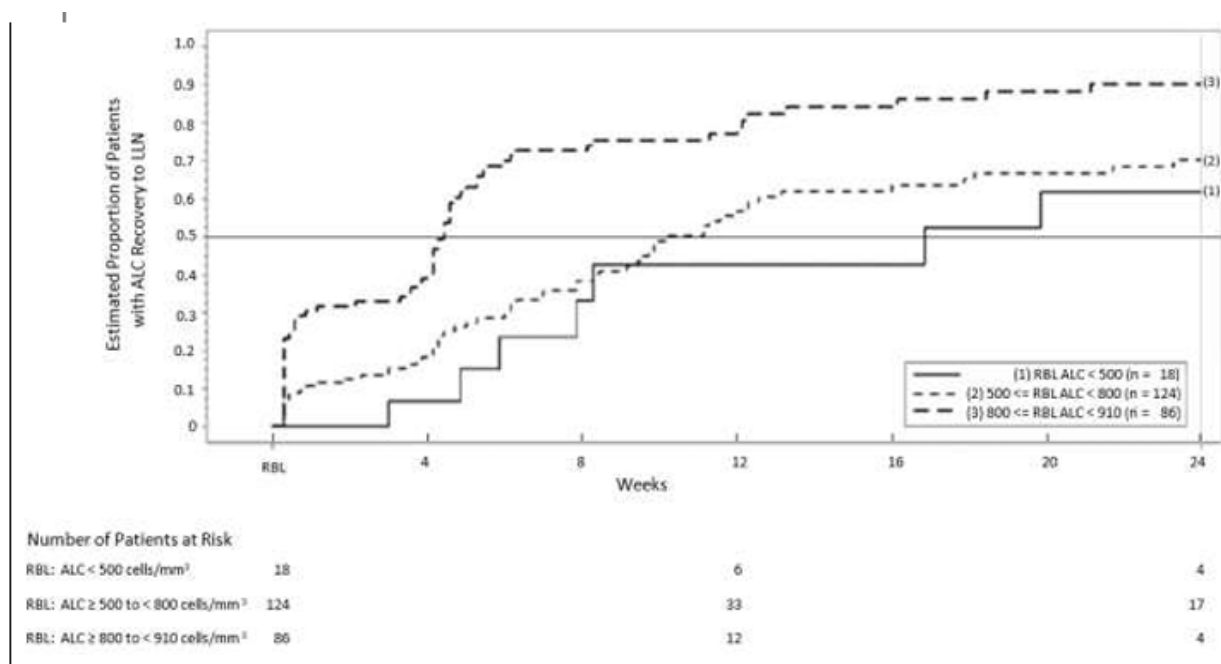
An analysis over a 4-day dosing period, in healthy adult volunteers, indicated that flushing scores decreased from a maximum on the first day of dosing, despite higher plasma MMF concentrations at the final dose. Administration of non-enteric coated acetylsalicylic acid 325 mg, 30 minutes prior to dosing, attenuated flushing (see [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION](#)).

In a clinical study in patients with relapsing forms of MS, patients treated with dimethyl fumarate and non-pegylated interferons mounted comparable immune responses to recall antigen (re-exposure with tetanus toxoid) inactivated neoantigen (first vaccination with conjugated meningococcal C polysaccharide vaccine), while the immune response to different serotypes of an unconjugated 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine varied in both treatment groups. Small numerical differences in the response to tetanus toxoid and pneumococcal serotype 3 polysaccharide were noted in favour of non-pegylated interferon.

In Phase 3 studies in MS patients (DEFINE, CONFIRM and ENDORSE), patients who discontinued APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE therapy with lymphocyte counts below the lower limit of normal (LLN,  $0.91 \times 10^9/L$ ) were monitored for recovery of lymphocyte counts to the LLN. With the exclusion of 49 patients with severe prolonged lymphopenia ( $< 0.5 \times 10^9/L$ , for 6 months or more), there were 228 patients with ALC  $<$  LLN at APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE discontinuation who had at least 1 ALC value after APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE discontinuation. Of these patients, 66% (n=150) were recorded as reaching LLN. Among the remaining 44% (n=78) who did not reach LLN, 57 patients had at most 12 weeks of follow up.

Figure 1 shows the proportion of patients estimated to reach the LLN based on the Kaplan-Meier method, using patient subgroups with mild, moderate, or severe lymphopenia (defined in the Figure). The recovery baseline (RBL) was defined as the last on-treatment ALC prior to APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is continuation. The horizontal line indicates the estimated median recovery point (i.e. time for 50% to reach the LLN), while the vertical lines indicate the estimated proportion of patients who recovered to the LLN at Week 12 and Week 24.

**Figure 1: Kaplan-Meier Method; Estimated Proportion of Patients with Recovery to  $\geq 910$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup> ( $0.91 \times 10^9/L$ ) LLN from the Recovery Baseline (RBL)**



Note: 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, 800 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, 910 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> correspond to  $0.5 \times 10^9/L$ ,  $0.8 \times 10^9/L$  and  $0.91 \times 10^9/L$  respectively.

**Effect on Cardiovascular System:** Single doses of 240 mg or 360 mg dimethyl fumarate did not have any effect on the QTc interval when compared to placebo in a specialized QTc study in healthy subjects.

### 10.3 Pharmacokinetics

Orally administered dimethyl fumarate undergoes rapid presystemic hydrolysis by esterases and is converted to its primary metabolite, monomethyl fumarate (MMF), which is also active. Dimethyl fumarate is not quantifiable in plasma following oral administration of dimethyl fumarate. Therefore, all pharmacokinetic analyses related to dimethyl fumarate were performed with plasma MMF concentrations. Pharmacokinetic data were obtained in subjects with multiple sclerosis and healthy volunteers.

**Table 3 - Summary of monomethyl fumarate (MMF) pharmacokinetic parameters in adult patient population**

	C <sub>max</sub>	T <sub>max</sub>	t <sub>½</sub> (h)	AUC <sub>0-24</sub>	CL	V <sub>d</sub>
<b>Single dose Mean</b>	1.87 mg/L <sup>1</sup>	7.9 h <sup>2</sup>	1 h	8.21 h.mg/L <sup>3</sup>	68.5 L/h	134.6 L
<sup>1</sup> Median C <sub>max</sub> : 1.72 mg/L						
<sup>2</sup> Median T <sub>max</sub> : 5 h						
<sup>3</sup> Median AUC <sub>0-24</sub> : 8.02 h.mg/L						

**Table 4 - Summary of monomethyl fumarate (MMF) pharmacokinetic parameters in pediatric patient population (aged 13 to 17 years)**

	C <sub>max</sub>	T <sub>max</sub>	t <sub>½</sub>	AUC <sub>0-24</sub>	CL	V <sub>d</sub>
<b>Single dose Mean</b>	2.00 mg/L	4.2 h	0.84 h	7.24 h.mg/L <sup>1</sup>	74.45 L/h	98.2 L
<sup>1</sup> AUC <sub>0-12</sub> : 3.62 h.mg/L						

#### Absorption:

Dimethyl fumarate concentration-time profiles are characterized by high inter-individual variability. The T<sub>max</sub> of dimethyl fumarate is 2 to 5 hours. As dimethyl fumarate mini tablets are protected by an enteric coating, absorption does not commence until the mini tablets leave the stomach (generally less than 1 hour post-dose). Following 240 mg administered twice a day with food, the median peak (C<sub>max</sub>) was 1.72 mg/L and overall (AUC) exposure was 8.02 h.mg/L in subjects with MS (C<sub>max</sub> and AUC increased approximately dose proportionally in the dose range studied (120 mg to 360 mg)).

Food does not have a clinically significant effect on exposure of dimethyl fumarate. Therefore, APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may be taken with or without food.



Based on the results of ANOVA, body weight is the main covariate of exposure (by  $C_{max}$  and AUC) in relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) subjects, but did not affect safety and efficacy measures evaluated in the clinical studies. Gender and age did not have a statistically significant impact on  $C_{max}$  and AUC.

### **Distribution:**

The apparent volume of distribution following oral administration of 240 mg dimethyl fumarate varies between 53 and 73 L in healthy subjects. Human plasma protein binding of MMF generally ranges between 27% to 40%.

### **Metabolism:**

In humans, dimethyl fumarate is extensively metabolized by esterases, which are ubiquitous in the gastrointestinal tract, blood and tissues, before it reaches the systemic circulation. Further metabolism occurs through the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, with no involvement of the cytochrome P450 (CYP) system. A single 240 mg  $^{14}C$ -dimethyl fumarate dose study identified monomethyl fumarate, fumaric and citric acid, and glucose as the major metabolites in plasma. The downstream metabolism of fumaric and citric acid occurs through the TCA cycle, with exhalation of  $CO_2$  serving as a primary route of elimination. Less than 0.1% of the dose is excreted as unchanged dimethyl fumarate in urine.

Potential drug interaction risks were not identified for monomethyl fumarate from *in vitro* CYP-inhibition and induction studies, a p-glycoprotein study, or protein binding studies.

### **Elimination:**

Exhalation of  $CO_2$  is the primary route of dimethyl fumarate elimination accounting for approximately 60% of the dose. Renal and fecal elimination are secondary routes of elimination, accounting for 15.5% and 0.9% of the dose respectively.

The terminal half-life of MMF is short (approximately 1 hour) and so no circulating MMF is present at 24 hours in the majority of individuals. Accumulation of MMF does not occur with multiple doses of dimethyl fumarate at the therapeutic regimen.

### **Linearity**

Dimethyl fumarate exposure increases in an approximately dose proportional manner with single and multiple doses in the 120 to 360 mg dose range studied.

### **Special Populations and Conditions**

- **Pediatrics**

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is not indicated in patients below the age of 18. The pharmacokinetic profile of dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice a day was evaluated in a small, open-label, uncontrolled study in patients with RRMS aged 13 to 17 years (n=22; 21 patients of whom were in the pharmacokinetic analysis). The pharmacokinetics of dimethyl fumarate in these adolescent patients was consistent with that previously observed in adult patients ( $C_{max}$ :  $2.00 \pm 1.29$  mg/l;  $AUC_{0-12hr}$ :  $3.62 \pm 1.16$  h.mg/l, which corresponds to an overall daily AUC of 7.24 h.mg/l).

- **Geriatrics**

The pharmacokinetics in patients aged 65 and over has not been studied (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Geriatrics](#)).

- **Sex**

Gender and age did not have a statistically significant impact on  $C_{max}$ .

- **Ethnic Origin**

Race and ethnicity have no effect on the pharmacokinetics of dimethyl fumarate.

- **Hepatic Insufficiency**

As dimethyl fumarate and MMF are metabolized by esterases present in most tissues, without the involvement of the CYP450 system, evaluation of pharmacokinetics in individuals with hepatic impairment was not conducted (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Hepatic Impairment](#)).

- **Renal Insufficiency**

Since the renal pathway is a secondary route of elimination for dimethyl fumarate accounting for less than 16% of the dose administered, evaluation of pharmacokinetics in individuals with renal impairment was not conducted (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations, Renal Impairment](#)).

- **Obesity**

Body weight is the main covariate of exposure (by  $C_{max}$  and AUC) in relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) subjects, but did not affect safety and efficacy measures evaluated in the clinical studies.

## **11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL**

Store APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE capsules between 15°C and 30°C in the original packaging in order to protect from light.

## **12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS**

Not applicable.

## PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### 13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

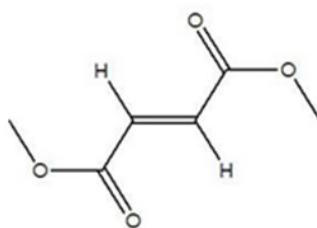
#### Drug Substance

Proper name: Dimethyl fumarate

Chemical name: Dimethyl (E)-butenedioate or 1,4 –Dimethyl Fumarate

Molecular formula and molecular mass: C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, molecular mass 144.13 g/mol

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Dimethyl fumarate is a white to off-white powder that is freely soluble in Dichloromethane and very slightly soluble in Water.

### 14 CLINICAL TRIALS

#### 14.1 Clinical Trials by Indication

##### Relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis

Table 5 - Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range) (years)	Gender
Study 1 (DEFINE)	Randomized, double- blind, placebo-controlled study.	Dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice or three times daily, or placebo, (oral). 2 year study.	Dimethyl fumarate BID: n=410 Dimethyl Fumarate TID: n=416 Placebo: n=408	39 (18 – 56)	Male: 26% Female: 74%

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range) (years)	Gender
Study 2 (CONFIRM)	Multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled study with a rater-blinded reference comparator of glatiramer acetate (GA).	Dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice or three times daily or placebo (oral), or GA. 2 year study.	Dimethyl fumarate BID: n=359 Dimethyl fumarate TID: n=345 Placebo: n=363 GA: n=350	37 (18 – 56)	Male: 30% Female: 70%

The efficacy and safety of dimethyl fumarate was demonstrated in two studies that evaluated dimethyl fumarate taken either twice or three times a day in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). The starting dose for dimethyl fumarate was 120 mg twice or three times a day for the first 7 days, followed by an increase to either 240 mg twice or three times a day. Both studies (Study 1 and Study 2) included patients with Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) scores ranging from 0 to 5, who had experienced at least 1 relapse during the year prior to randomization, or, within 6 weeks of randomization had a brain Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) demonstrating at least one gadolinium+ (Gd+) lesion.

**Study 1 (DEFINE):** Study 1 was a 2-year randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 1234 patients with RRMS who had not received interferon-beta or glatiramer acetate (GA) for at least the previous 3 months or natalizumab for at least the previous 6 months. Neurological evaluations were performed at baseline, every 3 months and at time of suspected relapse. MRI evaluations were performed at baseline, month 6, and year 1 and 2. The primary endpoint in Study 1 was the reduction in the proportion of patients relapsed at 2 years.

Patients were randomized to receive dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice a day (n=410), dimethyl fumarate 240 mg three times a day (n=416), or placebo (n=408) for up to 2 years (96 weeks). Median age: 39 years, median years since diagnosis: 4.0 years and median EDSS score at baseline: 2.0. Mean time on study was 84 weeks on 240 mg twice a day, 83 weeks on 240 mg three times a day and 85 weeks on placebo.

The proportion of patients relapsed at 2 years was significantly lower ( $p < 0.0001$ ) in the group treated with dimethyl fumarate than in the group that received placebo (Table 6, Figure 2).

Clinical secondary endpoints included annualized relapse rate (ARR), and time to 12-week confirmed disability progression at 2 years. Confirmed disability progression was defined as at least a 1 point increase from baseline EDSS (1.5 point increase for patients with baseline EDSS of 0) sustained for 12 weeks. The annualized relapse rate and time to 12-week confirmed disability progression were reduced in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to placebo (Table 6).

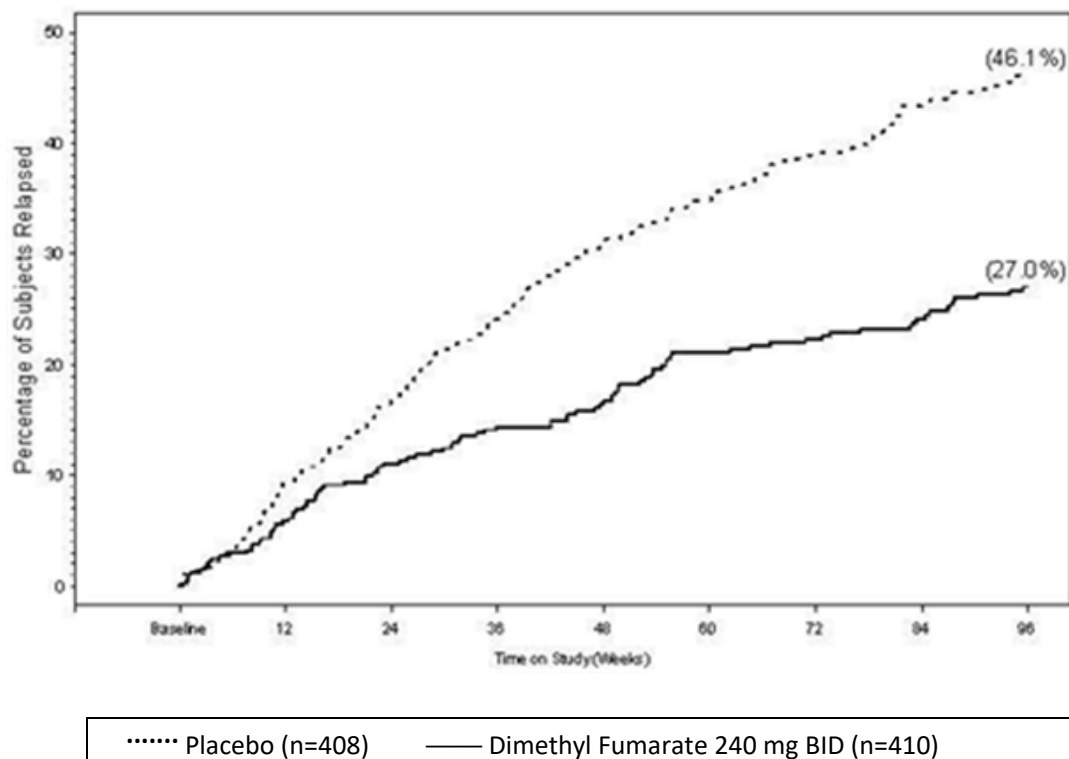
Secondary MRI endpoints included the number of new or newly enlarging T2 hyperintense lesions and number of Gd-enhancing lesions over 2 years, and both were reduced in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to patients who received placebo (Table 6).

The 240 mg three times daily dose resulted in no additional benefit over the dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice daily dose.

**Table 6 – Results of Study 1 (DEFINE) in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)**

	<b>Dimethyl fumarate, 240 mg BID (N=410)</b>	<b>Placebo (N=408)</b>
<b>Primary Endpoint</b>		
Proportion relapsing at 2 years Relative risk reduction (percentage)	0.270 49%	0.461
<b>Secondary Endpoints</b>		
Annualized relapse rate Relative risk reduction (percentage)	0.172 53%	0.364
Proportion with disability progression Relative risk reduction (percentage)	0.164 38%	0.271
Mean number of new or newly enlarging T2 lesions over 2 years Relative reduction (percentage)	2.6 85%	17.0
Mean number of Gd lesions at 2 years (median) Relative odds reduction (percentage)	0.1 (0) 90%	1.8 (0)

**Figure 2 - Time to First Relapse in Study 1 (DEFINE) – Percentage of Patients Relapsed at 2 years**



NOTE 1: Only relapses confirmed by the INEC (Independent Neurology Evaluation Committee) were included in the analysis.  
 2: Subjects who did not experience a relapse prior to switching to alternative MS medications or withdrawal from study were censored at the time of switch/withdrawal.

**Study 2 (CONFIRM):** Study 2 was a 2-year, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in 1417 patients with RRMS. Study 2 included an open label reference comparator group that received glatiramer acetate (GA). Patients included in the study had not received interferon-beta for at least the previous 3 months, natalizumab for at least the previous 6 months or glatiramer acetate at any time previously. The efficacy and safety evaluations were identical to Study 1 and the endpoints were consistent between the studies. The primary endpoint in Study 2 was the annualized relapse rate at 2 years.

Patients were randomized to receive dimethyl fumarate 240 mg twice a day (n=359), dimethyl fumarate 240 mg three times a day (n=345), placebo (n=363) or glatiramer acetate (n=350) for up to 2 years (96 weeks). Median age: 37 years, median years since diagnosis: 3.0 years and median EDSS score at baseline: 2.5. Mean time on study was 84 weeks on dimethyl fumarate, 86 weeks on placebo and 88 weeks on glatiramer acetate.

The annualized relapse rate at 2 years, was significantly lower in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate than in patients treated with placebo (0.224 for dimethyl fumarate vs. 0.401 for placebo,  $p < 0.0001$ ), corresponding to a 44% relative reduction.

Clinical secondary endpoints included the proportion of patients relapsed at 2 years, and time to 12-week confirmed disability progression at 2 years (defined as in Study 1). The proportion of patients relapsed at 2 years was reduced in the dimethyl fumarate group compared to the

placebo group. Time to 12-week confirmed disability progression was not significantly reduced for patients on dimethyl fumarate compared to those on placebo (Table 7).

Secondary MRI endpoints included the number of new or newly enlarging T2 hyperintense lesions and number new of T1 hypointense lesions at 2 years, and both were reduced in patients treated with dimethyl fumarate compared to those on placebo (Table 7).

**Table 7 – Results of Study 2 (CONFIRM) in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)**

	<b>Dimethyl Fumarate, 240 mg BID (N=359)</b>	<b>Placebo (N=363)</b>
<b>Primary Endpoint</b>		
Annualized relapse rate Relative risk reduction (percentage)	0.224 44%	0.401
<b>Secondary Endpoints</b>		
Proportion relapsing at 2 years Relative risk reduction (percentage)	0.291 34%	0.410
Proportion with disability progression Relative risk reduction (percentage)	0.128 21%	0.169
Mean number of new or newly enlarging T2 lesions over 2 years Relative reduction (percentage)	5.1 71%	17.4
Mean number of new T1 hypointense lesions over 2 years Relative reduction (percentage)	3.0 57%	7.0

### 14.3 Comparative Bioavailability Studies

#### Fasting Study

A randomized, two-treatment, two-period, two-sequence, two-way cross-over, single dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE 240 mg delayed-release capsules (Apotex Inc.) and <sup>P</sup>rTECFIDERA® 240 mg delayed-release capsules (Biogen Canada Inc.) was conducted in 72 healthy, adult male subjects under fasting conditions. Comparative bioavailability data, based on the active metabolite of dimethyl fumarate (monomethyl fumarate) from 69 subjects that were included in the statistical analysis are presented in the following table:

**SUMMARY TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE BIOAVAILABILITY DATA**

Monomethyl fumarate (1 x 240 mg) Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	Test <sup>1</sup>	Reference <sup>2</sup>	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90% Confidence Interval
AUC <sub>T</sub> (ng·h/mL)	3352.65 3457.70 (25.3)	3347.73 3437.45 (23.2)	100.2	96.5 - 103.9
AUC <sub>I</sub> <sup>3</sup> (ng·h/mL)	3365.30 3484.51 (25.2)	3364.95 3454.14 (23.1)	100.0	96.4 - 103.8
C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL)	1646.34 1740.36 (33.1)	1807.69 1914.45 (34.8)	91.1	84.0 - 98.7
T <sub>max</sub> <sup>4</sup> (h)	2.25 (0.3 – 7.0)	2.50 (1.7 – 5.0)		
T <sub>1/2</sub> <sup>5</sup> (h)	0.65 (30.1)	0.64 (28.2)		
<sup>1</sup> APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE (dimethyl fumarate) delayed-release capsules, 240 mg (Apotex Inc.) <sup>2</sup> PrTECFIDERA® (dimethyl fumarate) delayed-release capsules, 240 mg (Biogen Canada Inc.) <sup>3</sup> n=68 subjects <sup>4</sup> Expressed as median (range) only <sup>5</sup> Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV %) only				

**Fed Study**

A randomized, two-treatment, two-period, two-sequence, two-way cross-over, single dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE 240 mg delayed-release capsules (Apotex Inc.) and PrTECFIDERA® 240 mg delayed-release capsules (Biogen Canada Inc.) was conducted in 72 healthy, adult male subjects under high fat, high calorie fed conditions. Comparative bioavailability data, based on the active metabolite of dimethyl fumarate (monomethyl fumarate) from 70 subjects that were included in the statistical analysis are presented in the following table:

**SUMMARY TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE BIOAVAILABILITY DATA**

Monomethyl fumarate (1 x 240 mg) Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	Test <sup>1</sup>	Reference <sup>2</sup>	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90% Confidence Interval
AUC <sub>T</sub> (ng·h/mL)	3482.63 3590.29 (24.7)	3583.90 3700.73 (25.7)	97.2	94.6 - 99.8
AUC <sub>I</sub> <sup>3</sup>	3552.29	3664.48	96.9	94.3 - 99.7



Monomethyl fumarate (1 x 240 mg) Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	Test <sup>1</sup>	Reference <sup>2</sup>	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90% Confidence Interval
(ng·h/mL)	3638.52 (24.8)	3777.53 (25.0)		
C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL)	1664.88 1797.94 (35.8)	1757.05 1892.01 (38.8)	94.8	86.9 - 103.3
T <sub>max</sub> <sup>4</sup> (h)	4.67 (2.0 – 14.0)	4.67 (2.3 – 9.0)		
T <sub>1/2</sub> <sup>5</sup> (h)	0.95 (63.5)	1.14 (129.7)		
<sup>1</sup> APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE (dimethyl fumarate) delayed-release capsules, 240 mg (Apotex Inc.) <sup>2</sup> PrTECFIDERA® (dimethyl fumarate) delayed-release capsules, 240 mg (Biogen Canada Inc.) <sup>3</sup> n = 68 subjects <sup>4</sup> Expressed as median (range) only <sup>5</sup> Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV %) only				

## 15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

## 16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

All nonclinical safety studies in rodents and non-rodents were conducted with a dimethyl fumarate suspension (in 0.8% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose) administered by oral gavage, except acute and chronic studies in the dog that were conducted with oral administration of the dimethyl fumarate capsule.

Kidney changes were observed after repeated oral administration of dimethyl fumarate in mice, rats, dogs, and monkeys. Renal tubule epithelial regeneration, suggestive of tubule epithelial injury, was observed in all species. Exacerbation of age-related nephropathy and renal tubular hyperplasia were observed in mice and rats with chronic and life time dosing (2 year study) at all dose levels; hence there are no safety margins. In dogs, renal tubular dilatation and hypertrophy and hyperplasia of papillary urothelium at all dose levels, and tubular epithelial regeneration at higher dose levels indicate no safety margin was identified for renal toxicity. In monkeys, single cell necrosis and regeneration of tubular epithelial cells and, interstitial fibrosis with tubular atrophy were observed. The findings in monkeys were observed after daily oral doses of dimethyl fumarate for 12 months at approximately 2 times the RHD for single cell necrosis and at 6 times the RHD for interstitial fibrosis, based on AUC. The relevance of these findings to human risk is not known.

Parathyroid hyperplasia and adenoma in the 2-year rat study were considered secondary to renal toxicity.

In the testes, degeneration of the seminiferous epithelium was seen in rats and dogs at the high

dose in an 11-month study and interstitial (Leydig) cell hyperplasia was seen in rats at all dose levels in a male fertility study and with lifetime dosing (2-year study). Findings were observed at less than the RHD in rats, and 3 times the RHD in dogs (AUC basis). The relevance of these findings to humans is not known.

In the forestomach (nonglandular stomach) of mice and rats, squamous epithelial hyperplasia and hyperkeratosis, inflammation, squamous cell papilloma and carcinoma were observed in studies of at least 3 months duration. The forestomach of mice and rats does not have a human counterpart.

Findings in the liver in a 6-month study in rats were reported only in rats and not in mice, dogs or monkeys. Findings in the retina in the mouse carcinogenicity study were reported only in this study and not with other species.

**Carcinogenesis:** Carcinogenicity studies of dimethyl fumarate were conducted in mice and rats. In mice, dimethyl fumarate was administered at oral doses of 25, 75, 200, and 400 (dose reduced from 600) mg/kg/day for up to 2 years. The incidence of renal tubular adenoma (benign) and carcinoma was increased at 4 times the RHD on an AUC basis. Renal tumours were considered to be the result of the exacerbation of nephropathy caused by chronic renal toxicity. The relevance of these findings to human risk is unknown. The incidence of leiomyosarcoma, papilloma, and squamous cell carcinoma in the nonglandular stomach (forestomach) was increased at 4 times the RHD (AUC basis). The forestomach of mice does not have a human counterpart. Plasma MMF exposure (AUC) at the highest dose that was not associated with tumors in mouse (75 mg/kg/day) was similar to that in humans at the RHD of 480 mg/day.

In rats, dimethyl fumarate was administered at oral doses of 25, 50, 100 and 150 mg/kg/day for up to 2 years. In males, an increase in the incidence of benign interstitial cell (Leydig cell) adenoma of the testes was observed at 1.5 times the RHD based on relative AUC values. The incidence of squamous cell papilloma and carcinoma of the nonglandular stomach (forestomach) was increased below the RHD. The forestomach of rats does not have a human counterpart. Plasma MMF AUC at the lowest dose tested was lower than that in humans at the RHD.

**Mutagenesis:** Dimethyl fumarate (DMF) and monomethyl fumarate (MMF) were not mutagenic in the *in vitro* bacterial reverse mutation (Ames) assay. DMF and MMF were clastogenic in the *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay in human peripheral blood lymphocytes in the absence of metabolic activation. DMF was not clastogenic in the *in vivo* micronucleus assay in the rat.

**Fertility:** Administration of dimethyl fumarate to male rats at daily oral doses of 75, 250, and 375 mg/kg prior to and during mating had no effects on male fertility up to the highest dose tested (9 times the RHD based on mg/m<sup>2</sup>). Administration of dimethyl fumarate to female rats at daily oral doses of 25, 100, 250 mg/kg/day prior to and during mating, and continuing to Day 7 gestation, caused disruption of the estrous cycle and increases in embryoletality at the highest dose tested. The highest dose not associated with adverse effects (100 mg/kg/day) is twice the RHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. Testicular toxicity (germinal epithelial degeneration, atrophy, hypospermia, and/or hyperplasia) was observed at clinically relevant doses in mouse, rat, and dog in subchronic and chronic oral toxicity studies of DMF.

**Teratogenicity:** No malformations were observed at any dose of dimethyl fumarate in rats or rabbits. Administration of dimethyl fumarate at daily oral doses of 25, 100, and 250 mg/kg/day to pregnant rats during the period of organogenesis resulted in reductions in maternal body weight at 4 times the RHD on an AUC basis, and reductions in fetal weight, increased alterations and reduced ossification (metatarsals and hindlimb phalanges) at 11 times the RHD on an AUC basis. The effects on the fetus may have been secondary to maternal toxicity.

Administration of dimethyl fumarate at daily oral doses of 25, 75, and 150 mg/kg/day to pregnant rabbits during organogenesis had no effect on embryo-fetal development and resulted in reductions in maternal body weight at doses 7 times the RHD and increased abortion at 16 times the RHD on an AUC basis.

Administration of dimethyl fumarate at daily oral doses of 25, 100, and 250 mg/kg/day to rats during pregnancy and lactation resulted in lower body weights in the F1 offspring, and delays in sexual maturation in F1 males at 11 times the RHD on an AUC basis. There were no effects on fertility in the F1 offspring. The effects on the F1 offspring may have been secondary to maternal toxicity.

## **17 SUPPORTING PRODUCT MONOGRAPHS**

1. TECFIDERA, (Dimethyl fumarate delayed-release capsules, 120 mg and 240 mg), submission control 259869, Product Monograph, Biogen Canada Inc. (MAY 16, 2023)

## **PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION**

### **READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE**

#### **Pr APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE**

#### **Dimethyl Fumarate Delayed-Release Capsules**

Read this carefully before you start taking **APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE**.

#### **What is APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE used for?**

APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is used in adults to treat relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (MS). APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE helps to:

- reduce the number of flare-ups (relapses) that occur, and
- delay physical problems due to MS (disability progression).

#### **How does APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE work?**

The exact way that APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE works is not known. However, APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is thought to work by changing the way the body's immune system works, to help keep MS from further damaging your brain and spinal cord.

#### **What are the ingredients in APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE?**

Medicinal ingredient: dimethyl fumarate

Nonmedicinal ingredients: Colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, methacrylic acid and ethyl acrylate copolymer dispersion, methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate copolymer, microcrystalline cellulose, talc and triethyl citrate. The capsule shell contains black iron oxide, FD&C Blue 1, gelatin, titanium dioxide and yellow iron oxide. The black ink contains ammonia solution, iron oxide black, potassium hydroxide, propylene glycol and shellac.

#### **APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE comes in the following dosage forms:**

Delayed-release capsules: 120 mg and 240 mg of dimethyl fumarate.

#### **Do not use APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE if:**

- you are allergic to dimethyl fumarate or to any other ingredients in APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE.

**To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:**

- have or have had low white blood cell counts (low lymphocytes).
- have a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to diseases (immunodeficiency syndrome), medicines, or treatments that suppress the immune system (e.g., medicines used to treat cancer or bone marrow transplantation).
- have an infection.
- have a herpes zoster infection (shingles).
- have liver problems.
- have kidney problems.
- have gastrointestinal (GI) problems (e.g., stomach or bowel problems).
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.
- are taking other medications known as fumaric acid derivatives.
- are taking certain medications that can affect your kidney function (nephrotoxic medications).
- are planning on getting certain types of vaccines known as live attenuated vaccines. Check with your healthcare professional before receiving any vaccination during treatment or after stopping APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE.

**Other warnings you should know about:**

**Gastrointestinal (GI) problems:** Treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE can cause GI problems, especially in the first month. Some symptoms of GI problems include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. Most people have mild to moderate symptoms and they tend to go away over time. You should take APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE with food to help reduce the chances of GI problems. If this does not help, talk to your healthcare professional. They may also temporarily reduce your dose. Do not reduce your dose unless your healthcare professional tells you to.

**Infections:** If you have an infection before you start taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, tell your healthcare professional. Any infection that you already have may get worse. Other infections, including shingles, have occurred when taking dimethyl fumarate. Infections could be serious and sometimes life-threatening.

- Before you start taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, your healthcare professional will make sure you have enough white blood cells (lymphocytes) in your blood. This is because APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may cause low white blood cell count (lymphopenia). Blood measurements are done throughout treatment and afterwards, to monitor your lymphocyte count.
- While you are taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE if you think you have an infection, have a fever, chills or feel like you have the flu, tell your healthcare professional right away. These may be the symptoms of infection.
- If you believe your MS is getting worse (e.g. weakness, clumsiness, or visual changes) or if you notice any new or unusual symptoms, talk to your healthcare professional as soon as possible. These may be the symptoms of a rare brain disorder caused by infection called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). Your healthcare

professional might do an MRI scan to check for this condition. Your healthcare professional will decide whether you need to stop taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE.

- If you need to receive medications and treatments that suppress or change how the immune system works, talk to your healthcare professional about the potential increased risk of infections.

**Liver problems:** Treatment with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may cause liver problems, including increasing certain types of liver enzymes (i.e., liver transaminases) in your body. This usually happens during the first 6 months of treatment. Your healthcare professional will monitor your liver enzyme levels before, during, and after your treatment. They may stop your treatment if you have liver problems, or if liver problems are suspected.

**Flushing:** APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE may cause flushing, especially at the start of your treatment. Flushing can include hot flush, warmth, redness, itching, and burning sensation. Most people have mild to moderate symptoms early in the treatment and they tend to go away over time. Your healthcare professional may temporarily reduce your dose or recommend taking an over-the-counter pain and fever medication, such as aspirin, for a few days 30 minutes before your APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE dose. Do not reduce your dose unless your healthcare professional tells you to.

If you become flushed **and** get swelling of the face, lips, mouth or tongue, wheezing, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, **stop taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE and seek emergency medical assistance.**

See the [Serious side effects and what to do about them](#) table, below, for more information on these and other serious side effects.

**Monitoring and testing:** Your healthcare professional will monitor and assess your health by doing various tests. These tests may be performed before, during, and after your treatment. This will tell your healthcare professional about your blood, urine, and liver. They will use this information to determine if APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE is right for you and how it is affecting you.

**Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.**

**The following may interact with APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE:**

- **Fumaric acid.** APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should not be used with other types of fumaric acid. Ask your healthcare professional if you are not sure what other products may contain fumaric acids or its derivatives.
- **Medicines that affect the immune system.** This can include some commonly used cancer treatments and other medicines used to treat MS, such as, beta-interferons, glatiramer acetate, natalizumab, fingolimod, or mitoxantrone. APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE should not be started while you are on other MS medications. If you stop taking one of these medicines to switch to APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE you may be required to wait before starting APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE. The amount of time you

may need to wait will vary, depending on the treatment. Your healthcare professional will know how long you may need to wait.

- **Medicines that can affect the kidneys.** This can include antibiotics from the aminoglycoside class, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), diuretics, or lithium.
- **Vaccines.** If you need to receive a vaccine, talk to your healthcare professional first. The administration of vaccines containing live virus (attenuated vaccines) is not recommended.
- **Corticosteroids.** If you need to receive corticosteroids, talk to your healthcare professional about the potential increased risk of infections.
- **Acetylsalicylic acid.** Long-term use of acetylsalicylic acid (e.g., aspirin) is not recommended.

#### **How to take APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE:**

- Always follow your healthcare professional's instructions for taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE. You should check with your healthcare professional if you are not sure.
- **Swallow the whole APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE capsule.** Do not divide, crush, dissolve, suck, or chew the capsule.
- APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE can be taken with or without food. Taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE with food may help reduce the chances of certain side effects (flushing and gastrointestinal).
- APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE capsules are packaged in a blister card inside a carton. Remove the capsules from the blister by pushing them through the foil.
- Your healthcare professional may reduce your dose if you have certain side effects. Do not reduce your dose unless your healthcare professional tells you to.

#### **Usual dose:**

Your healthcare professional will tell you how much and how often to take APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE each day. This will depend on your condition, other medications you are taking, and how you respond to the treatment.

The usual starting and regular doses are as follows:

- **Starting dose:** One 120 mg capsule two times a day (one in the morning and one in the evening). For a total starting daily dose of 240 mg a day. Take this starting dose for the first 7 days, and then take the regular dose.
- **Regular dose:** One 240 mg capsule two times a day (one in the morning and one in the evening). For a total regular daily dose of 480 mg a day.

**Overdose:**

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**Missed Dose:**

If you forget or miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember if there is at least 4 hours between the morning and evening doses. If there is less than 4 hours, wait and take your next dose as planned. Do not try to make up for the missed dose by taking two doses at the same time.

**What are possible side effects from using APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE?**

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- Very Common - may affect more than 1 in 10 people
  - urinary tract infection
- Common - may affect up to 1 in 10 people
  - dry mouth
  - feeling hot
  - weight loss
  - ear infection
  - itchiness
  - skin rash
  - burning sensation
- Unknown frequency
  - runny nose
  - hair loss or thinning

<b>Serious side effects and what to do about them</b>			
<b>Symptom / effect</b>	<b>Talk to your healthcare professional</b>		<b>Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help</b>
	<b>Only if severe</b>	<b>In all cases</b>	
<b>VERY COMMON</b>			
<b>Flushing:</b> hot flush, general swelling, rash, itchiness, warmth, redness, or burning sensation	✓		



Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
<b>Gastrointestinal (GI) problems:</b> diarrhea, nausea, stomach pain, vomiting, indigestion	✓		
<b>Infections:</b> fever and chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or generally feeling unwell		✓	
<b>COMMON</b>			
<b>Lymphopenia</b> (low levels of white blood cells called lymphocytes): serious infections (e.g. pneumonia), or being more prone to getting infections		✓	
<b>Proteinuria</b> (excess proteins in the urine): frothy, foamy or bubbly urine; swelling of the face, hands, or legs; nausea; or muscle cramps at night		✓	
<b>Liver problems</b> (including increased levels of certain liver enzymes in the blood): loss of appetite, unusual tiredness, yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine, itching, nausea, or vomiting		✓	
<b>Allergic reactions:</b> rash, itching, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, wheezing, hives, rash			✓
<b>RARE</b>			
<b>Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy</b> (PML; a rare brain infection): progressive weakness on one side of the body, clumsiness of limbs, disturbance of vision, changes in thinking, memory and orientation, confusion, or personality changes			✓
<b>UNKNOWN FREQUENCY</b>			
<b>Herpes zoster virus (shingles):</b> skin rash of fluid-filled blisters, burning, itching or pain of the skin, typically on one side of the upper body or face, fever, weakness, or numbness		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

### **Reporting Side Effects**

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

### **Storage:**

Store APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE at room temperature (between 15°C to 30°C). Protect APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE from light. Store the capsules in their original packaging. Do not take your medicine after the expiry date shown on the carton. Keep out of reach and sight of children.

Medicines should not be disposed of in waste water or household garbage. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines you no longer need.

### **If you want more information about APO-DIMETHYL FUMARATE:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full Product Monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website <http://www.apotex.ca/products>, or by calling 1-800-667-4708.

This leaflet was prepared by Apotex Inc., Toronto, Ontario, M9L 1T9

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